**Universal Periodic Review 40th – Timor Leste**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Timor Leste for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands commends the Government of Timor Leste for their engagement with civil society and the increased awareness on the need to combat gender based violence.

The Netherlands notes that gender disparities remain and that limited budget allocation hampered the implementation of the second National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence (2017-2021).

The Netherlands **recommends** Timor Leste to:

1. Adopt policies and measures to encourage and enhance meaningful participation of LGBTQI persons in decision-making and leadership at national and sub-national levels.
2. Increase the availability of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and information, including on HIV, STIs and access to family planning services.

The Netherlands wishes Timor Leste success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you.